

# Department of Human Services

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(517) 373-7394



## Articles in Today's Clips Friday, January 25, 2008

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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## Man charged with burning child

Friday, January 25, 2008

By Danielle Quisenberry

dquisenberry@citpat.com -- 768-4929

A 33-year-old Jackson man was arraigned Thursday on charges he burned the face of his 5-month-old stepdaughter.

Timothy Andrew Williams is accused of injuring the girl inside the home he shared with her mother, Samantha Williams, 19, at 4101/2 S. West Ave. between W. Franklin Street and W. Washington Avenue, said Jackson Police Lt. Aaron Kantor.

He was charged with second-degree child abuse, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

The girl, whose name was not released, has some "serious burns," but is expected to survive, Kantor said.

Kantor said police are looking into the possibility hot

water caused the burns.

For obstructing the investigation, Samantha Williams also was arraigned Thursday on a charge of being an accessory after the fact, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

The Williamses initially told police the girl had been injured as she was cleaned, but police found their statements inconsistent with the baby's injuries and other information, Kantor said.

Samantha Williams took her daughter to Foote Hospital on Monday. She was later taken to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, where she was in "stable" condition Thursday, Kantor said.

After the girl was hospitalized, Children's Protective Services contacted the police, initiating an investigation by Jackson officers Nat Gross and Tim Black, Kantor said.

As a result of the charges, the baby has been taken into protective custody.

She likely will be placed in the care of her biological father, who was contacted and was at the hospital Thursday, Kantor said.

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This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published January 25, 2008



(Photo by ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal)  
Jury polled: Robin Terence Wood (left) listens with attorney John Frawley as the jury is polled Thursday after the verdict in Lansing.

#### What's next

Robin Terence Wood, 60, of Lansing faces life in prison when sentenced Feb. 27 in Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield's courtroom.

#### Photo Gallery:

[Robin Terence Wood verdict](#)

## Lansing man, 60, found guilty of child sex abuse

Day care operator's husband faces life in prison for crimes

Susan Vela  
Lansing State Journal

Families once dependent on a south Lansing home day care business were forever changed Thursday when an Ingham County jury convicted 60-year-old Robin Terence Wood of criminal sexual conduct.

Wood had been on trial for a week and the jury ruled after three days of deliberations that he inappropriately touched children at Mary's Quality Daycare, a venture of his wife's at 5015 Kessler Drive.

Relatives of the victims choked back sobs when the 12-person jury - four men and eight women - announced its guilty verdicts.

The jury convicted Wood of four counts of criminal sexual conduct, two first-degree charges and two second-degree charges involving the rubbing of children's bottoms and penetration with fingers.

There was a mistrial on another second-degree count.

The Woods kissed and embraced before the jury entered the courtroom.

### **Sentencing Feb. 27**

Robin Terence Wood has been free on bond. After the jury read its verdicts, he was taken into custody.

He faces life in prison when sentenced Feb. 27 in Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield's courtroom.

"Of course, I'm disappointed," said defense attorney John Frawley, adding that an appeal is likely. "I don't think that the evidence was sufficient."

Mary Wood declined to comment and was shielded by her supporters at the trial's conclusion.

"His wife is very, very upset," Frawley said. "She has stood by him from the very beginning."

### **Families pleased**

Families of the 5-, 6- and 11-year-old girls at the center of the case were jubilant.

"It's a huge relief," said the mother of the youngest girl, not wanting to be identified for her child's sake. "I'm so glad that I can be done with this."

"I know that my daughter has moved on. Now, the adult part of this is done. We can as adults move on and heal."

She said she planned to give her daughter a big hug and lots of kisses when she returned home. The girl's testimony was part of the trial.

"There's a lot of relief," Assistant Prosecutor Lisa McCormick said. "It's been very stressful in light of the children's ages. We're very pleased with the verdict."

### **Dismissed or retried**

The count that resulted in a mistrial may be dismissed or retried.

A decision on that will be made at a later date, McCormick said.

Police closed Mary's Quality Daycare on Jan. 19, 2007. A parent had told the state Department of Human Services about possible crimes.

Mary Wood lost her license. Her husband was charged in February.

He testified during the trial that he occasionally touched children attending or visiting his wife's home day care business.

He'd hug them, rub their backs, put an arm around them or apply cream to rashes.

However, he denied ever touching them for sexual reasons.

Contact Susan Vela at 702-4248 or [svela@lsj.com](mailto:svela@lsj.com).

## Local juveniles charged with auto theft

Home Town Life

January 24, 2008

The two juvenile suspects from last Thursday's pursuit of a stolen vehicle were charged the following day at the Probate Court in Pontiac.

The 14-year-old Novi resident, who was the passenger in the vehicle, is charged with unlawful driving away of an automobile (UDAA) and restricting and obstructing arrest.

The 16-year-old Novi resident, who was driving the vehicle, is charged with unlawful driving away of an automobile (UDAA), fleeing and alluding, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident and restricting and obstructing arrest.

The 1998 Buick Century was warming up in the parking lot of Springs Apartments on Pontiac Trail, just east of Beck Road, when it was stolen at about 8:30 a.m. Jan. 17, reports said.

Officers of the Novi Police Department noticed the Buick traveling south on Novi Road at 12 Mile Road, but as they attempted to stop the stolen vehicle, the suspects fled eastbound on Interstate 96.

The vehicle continued southbound on Interstate 275, exiting eastbound on Seven Mile Road, where the suspects crashed into a Dodge Caravan, occupied by a 39-year-old Livonia woman.

Neither the suspects nor the woman suffered serious injuries.

The two occupants of the stolen vehicle fled on foot, but were arrested with the assistance of the Livonia Police Department, reports said.

According to Chief David Molloy of the Novi Police Department, the maximum time juveniles can be held is until their 19th birthday.

The juveniles are detained at Oakland County Children's Village with a pre-trial date set for Feb. 6.

01/24/2008

## Former SafePlace employee suit tossed

STACY LANGLEY , The Huron Daily Tribune

**BAD AXE** — The federal lawsuit filed by a former SafePlace employee against a number of county and city officials, along with the County of Huron and the City of Bad Axe, has been dismissed.

The suit by Brenda L. Brooks, of Bad Axe, alleged she was wrongfully arrested and charged in the spring of 2006 after refusing to allow Bad Axe Police Officer Lt. David Rothe, serving as a first responder, and Huron County Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth V. Weisenbach, a SafePlace board member, inside the shelter during a reported 9-1-1 medical emergency.

Brooks's suit named Rothe, Bad Axe Police Chief John Bodis, the City of Bad Axe, along with Weisenbach, Prosecuting Attorney Mark J. Gaertner and Huron County as defendants in the suit. The lawsuit was filed by Brooks's Farmington Hills Attorney Jason J. Liss in November of 2006 in U.S. District Court in Bay City.

Brooks claimed she was falsely arrested, imprisoned and charged following the May 8 incident in which she repeatedly refused to let officials inside SafePlace after calling 9-1-1 reporting a female resident had a back injury and needed an ambulance. Further investigation of the incident revealed the resident's medical emergency was in fact for a drug overdose, not a back injury as initially reported.

According to U.S. District Court documents, Brooks was seeking monetary damages in excess of \$75,000 together with costs, interest and attorney fees.

Earlier this month U.S. District Court Judge Thomas L. Ludington dismissed the case in favor of the defendants after hearing from both sides.

Huron County Prosecutor Mark J. Gaertner said Ludington's opinion was based on the law and that he was pleased with the ruling.

Gaertner, who has since resumed his seat on the SafePlace Board, said, "with the individuals we have now, the new director and new house manager, we've restored professionalism to the shelter. This kind of conduct

will never happen again.”

Rothe responded to the shelter to assist the ambulance but Brooks refused to let him inside. Rothe stayed on the scene until the ambulance cleared, but when he learned the medical emergency actually was a drug overdose, he returned with Weisenbach to investigate and question any possible witnesses. Brooks still refused to allow Rothe or Weisenbach inside. She was placed under arrest by Rothe for interfering with a police investigation.

Following Brooks's arrest, she was charged with two felony counts of assaulting/resisting and obstructing Rothe from performing his duty as a police officer.

The felony charges against Brooks were dismissed following a series of meetings between Gaertner, Bodis and SafePlace Board President David Smith in attempts to establish policies that will better suit the shelter and those it serves.

Even though Brooks's lawsuit was dismissed in U.S. District Court, Gaertner said he has learned Brooks is taking her case to the Federal Appeals Court in Cincinnati which covers Michigan.





## Physician facing fraud charges

Friday, January 25, 2008

### THE SAGINAW NEWS

BAD AXE -- A Huron County doctor and his wife face 56 counts of insurance fraud.

Pediatrician Yuh-lin Hung and Jen Hung must return to Huron County District Court for a 9 a.m. Monday, March 10, preliminary hearing.

Court authorities arraigned the couple Jan. 11 on charges of health care fraud plus two counts each of larceny by conversion. The state attorney general also named Hung's practice in its complaint.

Investigators have accused Hung, who practices at 1060 S. Van Dyke in Bad Axe, of billing insurance providers for immunizations obtained through the federal Vaccines for Children program.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the vaccines to physicians for free and, in turn, the physicians are to offer them "at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay," the CDC reports.

The couple are free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bonds. v

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### **Petition training planned in health effort**

Friday, January 25, 2008

#### Gazette Staffs Reports

A training session will be held Saturday for people interested in collecting signatures for a statewide ballot initiative to overhaul Michigan's health-care system.

The session will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Unity of Kalamazoo, 1204 Whites Road.

This meeting will be hosted by local organizers of Health Care for Michigan, an initiative pushing to amend the state constitution to guarantee health care for all state residents.

Campaign organizers hope to collect 500,000 signatures by July 7 to put the question on the Nov. 4 ballot.

More information about the campaign can be found online at [www.healthcareformichigan.org](http://www.healthcareformichigan.org). For more information about the Michigan Universal Healthcare Access Network, one of the supporters of the Healthcare for Michigan Ballot Committee, visit [www.michuhcan.com](http://www.michuhcan.com).

Additional information can also be obtained by calling the Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community at 341-4213.

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# Niles Daily Star

## ONLINE EDITION

[Print Page](#)

Michigan getting \$27 million heating help

*Thursday, January 24, 2008 11:16 AM EST*

LANSING - Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm Wednesday announced that Michigan will receive an additional \$27.4 million in federal funding to be used for direct emergency service to clients through the Michigan Department of Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help protect Michigan citizens from cold this winter.

With the additional funds, Michigan's Department of Human Services and Public Service Commission have a combined \$173 million to assist residents with their heating and energy needs this year.

"No state has been more challenged by globalization than Michigan, and that has directly affected the pocketbooks of Michigan families," Granholm said. "With escalating energy costs and extremely cold weather, these funds will help Michigan families stay warm."

The funds will assist an additional 73,000 Michigan households in coping with the high costs of fuel this winter.

In December, Granholm and nine other Midwestern governors asked Congress for an increase in current year funding.

In late December, Congress authorized a new budget that included additional emergency funding.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released \$450 million in emergency funds for states to assist households with high energy costs.

Michigan received \$113.7 million in LIHEAP funds during fiscal year 2007 and provided heating assistance to nearly 466,000 households.

During the first quarter of the 2008 fiscal year (October-December), Michigan received 24,000 more LIHEAP crisis applications than in the same period last year.

"The rising cost of home heating continues to put serious financial burdens on our residents," Department of Human Services Director Ismael Ahmed said. "This action will help keep Michigan citizens warm and help low-income families deal with ever-increasing energy costs."

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, the average household will spend 15.2 percent more to heat their homes this winter.

To apply for crisis energy assistance, citizens should contact the Michigan Department of Human Services office in the county in which they reside.

## No 'typical homeless' person

Project connects people to services

BY MEGAN SCHMIDT

### FEATURED ADVERTISER

Hugh Campbell, left, gives Kristina Kraai a vision screening during Project Homeless Connect Thursday at Western Theological Seminary.

Dan Irving/The Holland Sentinel

Isaac Mitchell of Holland, left, chats with Angel Food Ministries volunteer Mary Lou Campbell during the Project Homeless Connect event Thursday at Western Theological Seminary.

Dan Irving/The Holland Sentinel

Max Transit customer service representative Charles Veldhoff describes available services to a family during the Homeless Connect event Thursday afternoon at Western Theological Seminary.

Dan Irving/The Holland Sentinel

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### RELATED STORIES

Sometimes when Minerva Suarez gets into her car to go to work at Kohl's or to take her three granddaughters out, she runs into a problem.

It won't start.

That's why Suarez, 47, decided to check out Project Homeless Connect at Western Theological Seminary on Thursday afternoon -- to see if she could find some help getting around town.

"Sometimes I just need someone to pick me up," she said as she and her granddaughters, ages 2, 5 and 8, huddled around the MAX Transit booth, where volunteers were handing out free bus passes and other information on its services. "This is really nice because I found out the kids can ride the bus free if they're with me."

Discovering what options are available not just for the homeless, but also for those struggling to make ends meet is the point of Project Homeless Connect, said Co-coordinator Lyn Raymond.

The event is based on the first Project Homeless Connect started in San Francisco in 2004.

The San Francisco Project Homeless Connect served as a model that has been implemented in events in 106 U.S. cities, according to its official Web site.

"We want to make it broad, not just for people in housing situations, but for anyone needing a variety of services," Raymond said. "We want to provide a lot of tools to a lot of people all in one place."

During the event, a free lunch was served with food donated from area businesses and winter clothing was distributed.

Raymond said Holland's Project Homeless Connect was planned by the Ottawa Area Housing Coalition with a \$1,000 grant from the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness and the help of volunteers from organizations including the Veterans Trust Fund to the Disability Network to individuals willing to donate their time and skills.

Hugh Campbell, a retired optometrist, said he had given at least 25 free eye exams so far at Thursday's event.

"It's a passion I have," said Campbell, who also volunteers at the Holland Free Health Clinic. "These people are people. They don't have the things I'm blessed with."

Isaac Mitchell, 55, was one of Campbell's patients -- one of the many booths he said he'd hit at Project Homeless Connect.

Since starting a part-time job as a forklift driver last month, Mitchell said he still needs help with finding affordable housing (once living on the streets, he's now renting a room) and maintaining his health.

"I got to check my blood pressure today," he said as he left the Holland Free Health Clinic booth. "I've been under all this stress so there's no telling what would've happened to me if I hadn't been able to do that."

Susan Cervantes, program supervisor for Community Action Agency, said there is no such thing as a "typical" homeless person in Holland.

"We may not always be approached by the typical homeless person who actually lives on the street, but Holland is full of non-stereotypical homeless," she said.

The Community Action Agency is a county program to assist low-income households with becoming economically independent and attended the event to answer questions about and provide referrals for subsidized housing, Cervantes said.

Cervantes said many people struggle with finding housing because of poor rental histories, poor credit reports and the fact that many landlords will turn

away someone with little or no income.

Raymond said other cities in the county, such as Grand Haven, are looking to get involved by having their own Project Homeless Connect.

"This was kind of the pilot," she said. "After the success we had today, I'd like to consider doing it a couple times a year."

#### Homeless survey

Thursday morning, Hope College students hit Ottawa County streets to count the homeless for the Ottawa Area Housing Coalition's point-in-time survey. Numbers from 2007 are:

Number of homeless

on Jan. 25, 2007

427 people

Number of children

159 people (37 percent)

History of substance abuse

35 percent

History of mental illness

22 percent

Veteran

6 percent

Victim of domestic violence

30 percent

-- Ottawa Area Housing Coalition point-in-time homelessness survey and Holland Rescue Mission

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[http://hollandsentinel.com/stories/012508/local\\_20080125001.shtml](http://hollandsentinel.com/stories/012508/local_20080125001.shtml)



## Fundraiser to provide basic supplies

Friday, January 25, 2008

### THE SAGINAW NEWS

Supporters of End of the Month Ministries will host a fundraiser at 7 p.m. Saturday at the SVRC-OIC building, 1000 Tuscola.

"Soulful Saturday" will feature food, jazz and poetry from 10 artists. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

The organization will use the proceeds to buy supplies for needy families.

Founders Josephine Breckenridge and Beverly Litfield distribute toiletries and household items to families in need on the city's East Side. Their donations have benefited about 120 families.

"It can be anything, paper towels, toothpaste .... the type of things that families run out of at the end of the month," said Assegid Merhsa, who helped organize the fundraiser.

Vendor spots are available for \$30.

Tickets are available at The Master's Touch, 1401 E. Genesee.

For more information on "Soulful Saturday," call 327-0266. For more information on End of the Month Ministries, call 799-0033 or 753-2570. v

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## State's earned income tax credit appears safe

1/24/2008, 6:20 p.m. ET

**The Associated Press**

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — It looks like a new tax credit for low-income workers in Michigan will remain safe.

The sponsor of a bill that would have delayed implementation of the earned income tax credit says she has no plans to pursue it. Sen. Nancy Cassis, a Republican from Novi, says the state's budget situation has changed since she introduced the bill last summer.

The new credit takes effect with the 2008 tax year. It complements a federal tax credit aimed at keeping more money in the pockets of low-income workers.

The state tax credit passed the Legislature with broad support. But some advocacy groups are worried it could be threatened because of economic pressures on the state budget.

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**Sen. Cassis quells rumors about freezing the Earned Income Tax Credit**

Thursday, January 24, 2008

LANSING--Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, today offered the following statement in response to recent rumors regarding Senate Bill 662 and freezing the Earned Income Tax Credit:

"Seemingly out of the blue, there is talk about freezing the Earned Income Tax Credit. Importantly, I was never part of any conversation concerning the possibility of freezing this credit.

"Let me clear up any concerns: As chair of Senate Finance, **I have absolutely no intent of holding a hearing on Senate Bill 662.** Some people seem to have forgotten that I am the author of the Earned Income Tax Credit law. I understand its vital importance.

"To put this into perspective, last year we experienced a \$1.7 billion shortfall, putting tremendous stress on our state's budget. At that time, it seemed reasonable to at least open a discussion on delaying another outlay of money that we did not have, somewhere between \$132 million and \$193 million.

"So I introduced SB 662, which would have delayed the implementation of the EITC-not repealed it. No one had lost anything; the delay never went into effect.

"Over the last eight months, all of us have witnessed, with some degree of comfort, that the pressure on our state's budget has lessened somewhat. The budget is in better shape than it was last year. That's good news.

"With the Legislature giving tax check rebates to some of our biggest corporations, among them the Big Three, it seems only fair and right to give credit checks to the other end of the spectrum, our working poor.

"And

that

is my intent."



Michigan Department of Human Services News Release

Contact: Daniel Piepszowski (313) 689-0171

Michigan Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity

Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

Michigan Department of Human Services

## **Poverty forums upcoming in Big Rapids, Waterford, Detroit and Flint Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity hold events that, in part, lead to upcoming poverty summit**

January 25, 2007

Michigan Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity will hold

forums in Big Rapids, Waterford, Detroit and Flint in January and February to hear directly from Michigan individuals and families who are living in poverty. They are part of a series of six forums to be held across the state that will lead to Michigan's first poverty summit in November 2008. The forums will be held:

--Thursday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ferris State University's Granger Center for Construction and HVACR Building Atrium, 605 S. Warren St. in Big Rapids

--Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 1-4 p.m. at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, East Conference Room, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd. in Waterford.

--Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church, 23 East Adams in Detroit.

--Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Genesee County Community Action,  
601 N. Saginaw St., Flint.

Previous forums were held in December in Sault Ste. Marie and Kalamazoo. The sponsoring state commission was established by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2003 and is charged with advancing state policies and programs to reduce poverty and to address the needs and concerns of low-income people.

The forums provide a vehicle for people living in poverty to share their stories and life experiences as they pursue economic self-sufficiency. The commission hopes to gain first hand knowledge of what families and individuals face when accessing public and private support systems.

“We want to find out what works at the grass-roots level, what programs are innovative in helping people move out of poverty.” commission chairperson Sonia Harb said. “We think it is vitally important that we hear the stories and experiences of people who deal with poverty every day as part of this process.”

The commission is supported by the Department of Human Services’ Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity.

“Poverty has quietly become the most important question of our time,” said Ismael Ahmed, director of Michigan Department of Human Services.

“Almost two million people live in or near poverty in Michigan including almost a half-million children. Almost three million residents live in low-income status.

“This is an issue nationwide, not just in Michigan, and it has special meaning here with the ongoing weakness of our state economy.”

The commission is working in a state-wide partnership with the Michigan League for Human Services, a Lansing-based non-profit organization dedicated to education, research and advocacy for the benefit of low-income and other vulnerable citizens. The Michigan Community Action Agency

Association, a membership organization for the 30 community action agencies that provide human service programs in all 83 counties, is the other principal partner.

The commission is also working with local organizations and coalitions including the Kalamazoo Poverty Reduction Initiative led by the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce. In addition to hearing testimony from consumers of state welfare programs, the commission is encouraging local service organizations to provide details of innovative programming that has resulted in positive outcomes for the poor.

For more information contact commission member Daniel Piepszowski at 313-689-0171.

For more information go to [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)